

PLANNING BOARD

In 2012, the Planning Board held 20 regular meetings.

Over the course of the year the following applications were approved:

Date	Name	Location	Application Type	Map/Block/Lot
01/17/12	Paul & Dawn Doyle	6 Sarah's Way	Site Plan	Map 10, Block 2, Lot 10-6
01/31/12	Richard Thomas	11 Kenwood Drive	Home Based Business	Map 7, Block 3, Lot 22-12
02/14/12	David Morgan	7 Valley Drive	Home Based Business	Map 4, Block 5, Lot 14-8
02/14/12	Sandra Bearce	6 & 8 Merrimac Road	Lot Line Adjustment	Map 12, Block 6, Lots 10, 11, & 14-1
06/19/12	Maplevale Builders	Katherine Drive	Town Acceptance	Map 6, Block 9, Lots 9 to 9-4
09/25/12	Lewis Builders	Sargent Woods	Amended Site Plan	Map 8, Block 3, Lot 11
10/23/12	Christi Donovan	11 Heath Street	Home Based Business	Map 10, Block 1, Lot 1
12/11/12	Winifred Bearce	6 & 16 Merrimac Road	Lot Line Adjustment	Map 12, Block 6, Lots 10 & 12

The Planning Board began the year by finding that the new proposed police station facilities at Federal City on Merrimac Road conformed to the recommendations of the Town of Newton Capital Improvements program.

Through the spring, summer, and fall months, the Planning Board completed the following projects:

- a. Major editorial revision of the Zoning Ordinance to correct many discrepancies and confusing references and bring the document into conformance with State of NH laws.
- b. Official Town road classification list. Research was done on the classification and acceptance history of all Town roads. All Town roads where an acceptance vote could not be found in Town records were officially accepted in June.
- c. Editorial revision of the Site Plan Regulations, Subdivision Regulations, and Policies and Procedures Manual. The purpose behind this project was to clarify confusing regulations, eliminate discrepancies between the regulations and the zoning ordinance, and streamline the Board's operating procedures.
- d. Comprehensive Planning Board office systems upgrades.

The Board welcomed a few new members and selected a new Chairman in 2012. These additions will hopefully bring fresh ideas and unique perspective to the Planning Board in 2013. The Planning Board encourages all residents to participate in its proceedings and provide input to the Board. To contact the Planning Board office, call (603) 382-3419 ext.15 or e-mail planningboard@newtonnh.net.

The Planning Board Members are: Chairman Barbara White, Vice Chairman James Doggett, Frank Gibbs, Michael Blanchette, Robert Miller, and Ann Miles; Alternates: Mary M. Allen, Rick Milner, Sandra Estabrook, James Holland, and Fred Gabriel; Board of Selectmen Ex-Officio: Charles Melvin.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara A. White, Chairman

RSA 674:39-aa – Restoration of Involuntarily Merged Lots

If you own real estate lots that were involuntarily merged by municipal action, you may be able to have those lots restored to their pre-merger status.

Lots involuntarily merged by a municipality (for zoning, assessing, or taxation purposes) prior to September 18, 2010 shall be restored to their pre-merger status at the request of the owner **provided:**

- Request is made prior to December 31, 2016; and
- No owner in the chain of title voluntarily merged the lots; all subsequent owners estopped from requesting restoration. The municipality shall have the burden of proof to show that any previous owner voluntarily merged his or her lots.
- ✧ Requests for "un-merger" to be made to the local governing body, whose decisions may be appealed pursuant to RSA 676.
- ✧ The restoration of the lots to their pre-merger status shall not be deemed to cure any non-conformity with existing local land use ordinances.
- ✧ This notice must be continuously posted in a public place from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016. Each municipality shall also publish the same or similar notice in its 2011 through 2015 annual reports.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Committee remains very active. Our committee is comprised of volunteers that are appointed by the selectmen. According to state law, it is our responsibility to protect the natural resources of the town. The New Hampshire RSA 36-A directs us to “conduct researches into our local land and water areas” and “seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes”. Our membership is made up of six regular members, three alternates, and one Selectmen Ex-Officio representative. We are very fortunate that our committee has a wide range of knowledge concerning wildlife, vegetation, shoreline and wetland soil issues. Their innovative ideas, positive energy and endless contributions of time have been an asset to our town in protecting our natural resources. I thank the entire committee and their families for always being there and commend their ability to think out of the box to accomplish the tasks we are presented with.

The Conservation Committee has the important assignment concerning the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and of watershed resources, including but not limited to shoreline protection, wet soil issues, site walks (when responding to citizen concerns), and endangered species protection. We continue to work with the State Wetland Bureau concerning any issues in our town as well as our input on all Dredge & Fill permit applications as well as Sand and Gravel Excavations as stated in RSA 155-E-3. The Scenic Roads in town also come under the charge of this Commission, as described in RSA 231:157 and RSA 231:158. The list

of Scenic Roads are: Gale Village Road, Currierville Road, Maple Avenue, Goulds Hill Road, Heath Street, Bartlett Street, Thornell Road and Town Hall Road.

The Conservation Commission is available to assist with any community or school event. We have created a slide show that can be used to educate our residents and our youth on Newton Conservation and Recreational Land. We invite you to use our land with your family and friends. The public is encouraged to use and enjoy this open space.

The conservation easement on Hidden Acres Farm, located on Thornell Road is being monitored according to the Bylaws of the Stewardship Committee. This is a wonderful piece of Newton History that we have the ability to protect.

This committee meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The meetings are held in the rear of the Town Hall at 7:30pm. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage anyone that is interested to attend. Feel free to log onto to the town web site at <http://www.newton-nh.gov> for access to minutes of our meetings.

We look forward to another prosperous year, and encourage your input.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Mears, Chairperson
Nancy Slombo, Vice Chair
Secretary Kimberly Lowther

Members: Patricia Wonson, Sandra Estabrook, Shelia Bergeron, Mary Ann Lapierre,
Jacklyn Heffner, and Selectman Liaison Trisha McCarthy

TRANSFER STATION

2012 has been an interesting year for all of us at the Transfer Station. Please know the staff at the Transfer Station is there to help you. Any person needing help with anything can receive it, all you have to do is ask an attendant and sign the Transfer Station "Hold Harmless Waiver", then we can help you get something in or out of your vehicle. Without signing the waiver an attendant will be unable to assist you. This year many great things have happened and I would like to take this time to share some of them with you.

On September 11th 2011 the Town of Newton held its first "Hazardous Waste Day" for Newton Residents only. Clean Harbors Environmental Services was on hand to take Newton's Hazardous Waste; this event's total cost was \$22,000.00. The event went very smooth with the Transfer Station Attendants aiding in traffic control. The "Hazardous Waste Day" was very successful in keeping hazardous waste out of our regular trash and our environment; illegal dumping of hazardous waste can cost the town up to **\$30,000.00 in fines each offense**. I am proposing a "Hazardous Waste Day" for 2013; I have made this day a Warrant Article for the residents to vote on for the year of 2013, I am proposing that Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) be taken from the Transfer Station Recycling Fund for the event. I will make every effort to inform the residents of when the "Hazardous Waste Day" will be held this year if Warrant Article #14 passes. My plan is to hold a "Hazardous Waste Day" every other year if the money is available, so please keep an eye on the warrant articles for this event and vote "yes".

2012 was the first year we had implemented the "Transfer Station Voucher System"; this event took the place of "Fee Free Weekend". Each Voucher was mailed to tax-paying residents who resided at that address; people who rented were not included in this system. Each Voucher entitled you to two (2)-6 or 8 foot bed loads of "Acceptable Items" off the "Transfer Station Fees List" for free. In the year 2013 we are going to run the Transfer Station Voucher System again if the Budget passes. In 2013 the "Transfer Station Voucher System" is good for One (1) free 6 to 8 foot bed worth of items from the "Transfer Station Fees List". If you need to borrow/rent a vehicle please go to the Selectmen's Office at Town Hall for a "Temporary Permit". If you can't get a truck and you need to use your passenger vehicle, we will be able to work with you so you can make multiple trips. Only residents that reside at the address listed on the Voucher can redeem this Voucher at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center. When redeeming your Voucher please have your Valid Driver's License or Valid Picture I.D. with you. The last day the "2013 Voucher" will be accepted is December 31, 2013. Any questions regarding the "2013 Voucher System" please direct your calls to the Transfer Station Manager at 382-7250. Information about the "2013 Voucher System" is available online at www.newton-nh.gov. Please see an attendant when redeeming your Voucher. You can use the Voucher at any point throughout the year in 2013, which will be helpful to the residents so you can dispose of your unwanted items at your leisure. By running this event this way it will save the town money in many different areas. We will not have to overstaff the Transfer Station for a weekend and have a three week clean up involving the staff at the Transfer Station and the Highway Department. We at the Transfer Station are looking forward to offering a way for residents to dispose of their items for free, while watching out for the town's budget.

Recycling is the best way you can help lower your taxes; did you know that we receive money for most of our recycling? To dispose of household trash it costs the Town \$72 a ton, plus a \$120.00 Hauling Fee for each container they empty. 80% of what people throw away is actually recyclable, but yet that 80% fills the landfills more and more each day. Each of the Compactor Containers can hold up to 21 Tons of waste; it is a vicious cycle that makes no sense. Why would you want to pay to throw something away when you could get paid for it? If you could take a few extra steps a day to save \$50 a month would you? That is all recycling is; if we all worked together all recycling would result in a profit for the Town of Newton. Disposal costs would go down and the money we would receive from recycling these items and all the savings would go back to the town at the end of the year to help lower your tax rate. We all can make a big difference; we just have to take a couple of extra steps. Like my mother always told me "the right thing is the hardest thing to do because it takes effort". I would like to thank all of you who have put in the effort, who took the extra steps. Between your efforts and those of the Transfer Station Staff we have dramatically changed the recycling rate in such a short time. Even though our numbers are great there is always room for improvement. The State set a goal for each town to try and reach 40 % for a recycling rate; if we all pitched in I know we could far surpass that number. In the year 2011 we added a packer to our Recycling Area which dramatically increases our revenue for our paper and cardboard, we no longer have a cost to recycle these products. In 2012 our Vendor for the Commingled Containers also dropped the fee for the tonnage that comes out of our commingled containers. With these two changes to our Recycling Area, the Town should be able to save tremendous amounts of money with our disposal costs if more people would recycle. We have a "Benefits to Recycling Board" at the Transfer Station; this board will show you how much household trash and recycling the town disposed of the previous month and the costs and revenue that the Town had produced. I really want you to be honest and ask

yourself this question, why would I pay for something when I could get it for free or make money from it? We could really have a huge effect on how your tax money is spent and even lower your taxes if we all work together with one goal. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

There are many services that the Transfer Station offers; I have been told not many people know about them. We compost all the yard waste that we take in, and then offer the finished product to Newton Residents “free of charge”. We work very hard to provide this to you; all that we ask is that you make sure your yard waste is free of trash and other debris. This process takes a lot of time, effort, and money; please work with us so we can provide you with the best compost possible. There is no limit to what you can take and if you sign the Transfer Station Waiver we would be happy to load it into your vehicle with our tractor. We offer each resident a 5 to 10 gallon bucket of free sand a day during the winter months. We ask that if you take a kitty litter bucket full, that you continue to recycle and reuse the same bucket. If you have empty kitty litter buckets please give them to an attendant so we can recycle them. All wood in the clean wood pile and the brush pile is free for the Newton residents to take as much as you like, but because of insurance reasons you cannot use a chain saw on site. We have started a “Senior Discount Program” at the Transfer Station for residents who are 65 years of age and older. On the first Tuesday of every month is when seniors can participate in the program all you need is a valid ID and you will receive half off your total charge. We have an “Ask the Attendant Program”, when the swap pile is open is when we operate that program. Just inform the Attendant of what you need and give the Attendant your contact information. If and when we see that item come into the Transfer Station we will put it aside for you and give you a call. This helps out in many ways; it is a form of recycling. If someone would have to pay to get rid of the item they now don’t have to pay for it. It also stops the Resident in need from spending money on that item.

All Attendants at the Transfer Station **must** follow the Policies, Transfer Station’s Fee List, and rules given to them by the State, Federal Government, and the Board of Selectmen. Once a year each attendant goes to the Department of Environmental Services for training and to further their knowledge in all aspects of this field. **Please do not ask the Attendants to break the rules.** These rules are there for a reason, they are to protect our town, residents, and attendants. If you have any problems with the rules please don’t yell or be rude to the attendants, address your concerns with the Board of Selectmen with a written letter. The problem will be looked at by the Board of Selectmen and the Transfer Station Manager, and the issue will be worked through as soon as possible. There are also rules and guidelines for the residents to follow when entering and using the Transfer Station; these rules can be found at the Town Hall.

I would like to thank the Staff at the Transfer Station, without their hard work and dedication the facility wouldn’t be what it is today. We appreciate all the help we received from volunteers and residents to make the year 2012 a success. Thank you very much; we couldn’t have done it without you. We as a crew look forward to improving and growing as a community, to make the Transfer Station a safe, happy, productive, and functional place for all Residents in the year 2013. Thank you again. Let’s all pitch in to save the environment and taxpayers money.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Jolicoeur
Transfer Station Manager